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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/805,908

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David Quijano

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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S


ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/805,908	Applicant(s) QUIJANO, DAVID 	
	Examiner Hung S. Bui	Art Unit 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-18,20-22,24 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-18,20-22,24 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03/22/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 12-15, 17-18, 20-22 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felman et al. [US 6,205,020] in view of Anderson et al. [US 6,550,877].

Regarding claims 1, 4, 9, 13 and 20, Felman et al. disclose a motherboard module (figures 2-3), comprising:

- a motherboard (16) that includes a processor and memory (column 7, lines 57-65); and
- a connector panel (104) that provides access to connectors (116) that are connected to the motherboard, wherein the connector panel and the circuit board are connected together so as to form a single, integrated unit that can be installed in a computer (figure 3).

Felman et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connector panel comprising connection elements including tabs secured by slots of a computer chassis that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis.

Anderson et al. disclose a computer chassis (figure 1) having a connector panel including a plurality of connection elements (112), wherein the connection elements have plurality of tabs (108) are configured to directly connect with a plurality of slots (figure 4) of a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a securing element design of Anderson for the securing element of Felman et al., as modified, for the purpose of enabling assembly.

Regarding claim 2, Felman et al. disclose the connectors (116) being mounted to the motherboard (figures 2-3).

Regarding claim 5, Felman et al. disclose the connector panel comprising openings with which the connectors are aligned or extend through (figures 2-3).

Regarding claims 6 and 17, Felman et al. disclose at least one connector being attached to the connector panel (figures 2-3).

Regarding claims 7, 12 and 18, Felman et al. disclose the at least one connector being also mounted to the motherboard so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard (figures 2-3).

Regarding claim 10, Felman et al. disclose a motherboard module separate from a computer (figures 2-3), the module comprising:

- a computer motherboard (16) that includes a processor and memory (column 7, lines 57-65), the motherboard having input/output connectors (116) mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard (figures 2-3); and

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- a connector panel (104) having openings that are configured to receive the input/output connectors mounted to the motherboard so as to provide access to the connectors to a computer user, the connector panel further comprising connection elements that are configured to connect the panel to a computer chassis (figures 2-3);
- wherein the motherboard and the connector panel are connected together so as to form a single, integrated unit in which the rear edge of the motherboard aligns with the connector panel and the motherboard extends normal from the connector panel.

Felman et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the panel mounted directly to the computer chassis.

Anderson et al. disclose a computer chassis (figure 1) having a connector panel including a plurality of connection elements (112), wherein the connection elements have plurality of tabs (108) are configured to directly connect with a plurality of slots (figure 4) of a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a securing element design of Anderson for the securing element of Felman et al., as modified, for the purpose of enabling assembly.

Regarding claims 14-15, Felman et al. disclose a computer (figures 2-3), comprising:

- an outer housing (18) and a chassis mounted within the outer housing (figures 1-3); and

- a pre-assembled motherboard module (figures 2-3) that includes a motherboard (16) that is mounted within the chassis and a connector panel (104) that is accessible from the exterior of the computer, the motherboard and the connector panel being connected together to form a single, integrated unit (figures 1-3), the motherboard including a processor, memory, and input/output connectors, connectors (column 7, lines 57-65).

Felman et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connector panel comprising connection elements that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis.

Anderson et al. disclose a computer chassis (figure 1) having a connector panel including a plurality of connection elements (112), that are configured to directly connect the connector panel to a computer chassis (figure 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a securing element design of Anderson for the securing element of Felman et al., as modified, for the purpose of enabling assembly.

Regarding claims 21-22 and 24-25 the method of manufacturing a computer would have been inherent in the product structure.

3. Claims 3, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felman et al., as modified, as applied to claim 1, 10 and 14 above, and further in view of Sacherman et al. [US 5,973,926].

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Regarding claims 3, 11 and 16, Felman et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the motherboard being mounted thereon a computer chassis by fasteners through openings.

Sacherman et al. disclose a computer chassis having a motherboard (102) including openings (104, figure 5) that are adapted to receive fasteners (302) to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a fastener design of Sacherman et al. for the circuit board of Felman et al., as modified, for the purpose of securing circuit board into the computer.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 8-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

01/30/06
Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841


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